

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019

FIFTH ORGANIZATIONAL DAY

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by Mr. Speaker Casada.

The proceedings were opened with prayer by Mayor Mike Callis, Liberty Freewill Baptist Church, Portland, TN.

Representative Lamberth led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken with the following results:

Present..... 97

Representatives present were Baum, Beck, Boyd, Bricken, Byrd, Calfee, Camper, Carr, Carter, Cepicky, Chism, Clemmons, Cochran, Coley, Cooper, Crawford, Curcio, Daniel, DeBerry, Dixie, Doggett, Dunn, Eldridge, Faison, Farmer, Freeman, Gant, Garrett, Griffey, Hakeem, Halford, Hall, Hardaway, Haston, Hawk, Hazlewood, Helton, Hicks, Hill M., Hill T., Hodges, Holsclaw, Holt, Howell, Hulsey, Hurt, Jernigan, Johnson C., Johnson G., Keisling, Kumar, Lafferty, Lamar, Lamberth, Leatherwood, Littleton, Love, Lynn, Marsh, Miller, Mitchell, Moody, Moon, Ogles, Parkinson, Potts, Powell, Powers, Ragan, Reedy, Rudd, Rudder, Russell, Sanderson, Sexton C., Sexton J., Shaw, Sherrell, Smith, Sparks, Staples, Stewart, Terry, Thompson, Tillis, Todd, Towns, Travis, Van Huss, Vaughan, Weaver, White, Whitson, Windle, Wright, Zachary, Mr. Speaker Casada -- 97

EXCUSED

The Speaker announced that the following members have been excused, pursuant to requests under **Rule No. 20**:

Representative Ramsey; illness

Representative Williams; personal

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken with the following results:

Present..... 96

Representatives present were Baum, Beck, Boyd, Bricken, Byrd, Calfee, Camper, Carr, Carter, Cepicky, Chism, Clemmons, Cochran, Coley, Cooper, Crawford, Curcio, Daniel, DeBerry, Dixie, Doggett, Dunn, Eldridge, Faison, Farmer, Freeman, Gant, Garrett, Griffey, Hakeem, Halford, Hall, Hardaway, Haston, Hawk, Hazlewood, Helton, Hicks, Hill M., Hill T., Hodges, Holsclaw, Holt, Howell, Hulsey, Hurt, Jernigan, Johnson C., Johnson G., Keisling,

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Kumar, Lafferty, Lamar, Lamberth, Leatherwood, Littleton, Love, Lynn, Marsh, Miller, Mitchell, Moody, Moon, Ogles, Parkinson, Potts, Powell, Powers, Ragan, Reedy, Rudd, Rudder, Russell, Sanderson, Sexton C., Sexton J., Shaw, Sherrell, Smith, Sparks, Staples, Terry, Thompson, Tillis, Todd, Towns, Travis, Van Huss, Vaughan, Weaver, White, Whitson, Windle, Wright, Zachary, Mr. Speaker Casada -- 96

RECESS MOTION

Representative Lamberth moved, pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 10 and in order to satisfy the requirements of the Tennessee State Constitution, the House stand in a brief recess in order to meet with the Senate for the purpose of inaugurating the Governor in joint convention, at the conclusion of which, the House adjourn the Organizational Session of the House of Representatives of the 111th General Assembly sine die and that the House convenes into Regular Session here in the House Chamber immediately following the conclusion of the joint convention, which motion prevailed.

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IN JOINT CONVENTION

INAUGURATION OF GOVERNOR LEE

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The hour having arrived, set by House Joint Resolution No. 10, the Senate met with the House in Joint Convention for the purpose of inaugurating the Honorable Bill Lee as Governor.

The Joint Convention was called to order by Mr. Speaker McNally, President of the Joint Convention.

On motion of Senator Johnson, the roll call of the Senate was dispensed with.

On motion of Representative Lamberth, the roll call of the House was dispensed with.

Senator Johnson moved pursuant to TCA §2-8-106(a) and TCA §2-18-101, that the Joint Convention adopt the report of the Joint Select Committee to Canvass the Returns of the Governor's election.

Representative Lamberth seconded the motion.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO CERTIFY RESULTS
OF GOVERNOR'S ELECTION**

The joint committee appointed to canvass and certify the results of the November 6, 2018, general election for the office of governor of the State of Tennessee has met and reports the following results:

Bill Lee	1,336,106
Karl Dean	864,863
Mark CoonRippy Brown	2,841
Sherry L. Clark	5,198
Justin Cornett	1,217
Gabriel Fancher	869
Sean Bruce Fleming	814
William Andrew Helmstetter	496
Cory King	1,502
Matthew Koch	652
Tommy Ray McAnally	609
Jessie D. McDonald	755

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Toney Randall Mitchell	739
Yvonne Neubert	3,070
Alfred Shawn Rapoza	800
Chad Riden	1,096
Robert Sawyers Sr.	1,059
Heather Scott	2,969
George Blackwell Smith IV	1,550
Jeremy Allen Stephenson	613
Tracy C. Yaste Tisdale	1,396
Mike Toews	726
Rick Tyler	981
Vinnie Vineyard	1,012
Jaron D. Weidner	588
Patrick Whitlock	3,631
Joe B. Wilmoth	2,444
Mark Wright	4,687
Eddie Murphy	11

Submitted by:

/s/ Representative Cameron A. Sexton

/s/ Senator Jack Johnson

/s/ Representative Johnny Shaw

/s/ Senator Jeff Yarbro

/s/ Representative Andy Holt

/s/ Senator Ken Yager

On motion, the Report of the Committee to Certify Results of Governor's Election was adopted.

Thereupon, the Clerk of the Senate read House Joint Resolution No. 10, authorizing the Joint Convention.

Mr. President McNally appointed a Select Committee composed of Senators Gilmore, Gresham, Jackson, Kelsey, Niceley and Stevens; Speaker Casada announced Representatives DeBerry, Halford, Curtis Johnson, Lamberth, Marsh and Cameron Sexton as the Committee to escort the Honorable Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee and First Lady Crissy Haslam to the platform. Representative Curtis Johnson served as Chair of this Committee.

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Representative Curtis Johnson announced, “Mr. President and members of the Joint Convention, it is my honor to present to you, the Honorable Bill Haslam, the Governor of the great state of Tennessee and his wife, our First Lady Crissy Haslam.”

Mr. President McNally appointed a Select Committee composed of Senators Akbari, Haile, Johnson, Watson, Yager and Yarbro; Speaker Casada announced Representatives Holt, Lynn, Reedy, Sherrell, Windle and Zachary as the Committee to escort the Honorable Bill Lee, Governor-Elect of the State of Tennessee, First Lady Designate Mrs. Maria Lee and Family to the platform. Senator Haile served as Chair of this Committee.

Senator Haile announced, “Mr. President, The Honorable Bill Lee, the Governor-Elect of the great state of Tennessee accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Maria Lee, and Family.”

The Tennessee National Guard gave the Presentation of Colors.

Adam Dequon Smith lead the Joint Convention in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The National Anthem was sung by Dailey and Vincent.

Pastor Berger gave the invocation.

Mr. President McNally recognized Governor Bill Haslam for outgoing remarks.

OUTGOING REMARKS FROM GOVERNOR BILL HASLAM

Thank you so much, thank you, please have a seat, thanks.

Let me start by thanking someone who has served this state amazingly well for the last eight years in more ways than I can tell you. Please help me thank the wonderful Crissy Haslam.

So, in about two hour, Crissy and I are going to be getting in a car and heading east on I-40. Two thinks to know about that: number one, I haven't driven in eight years, so if you happen to be going to Knoxville or Johnson City or Bristol or somewhere you might want to get a head start on us. The second thing to know is this: and I will try not to choke up when I say this but there won't be two more grateful people anywhere than the two in that car.

For the last eight years we have loved doing every bit of this and I can't thank you enough. Every day I have walked up to the steps of the Capitol and thought: as David says to God in 2 Samuel, “Who am I Lord, and who is my house that you have brought me here?” I felt that every day that I got to do this job and I always will.

So to the people of Tennessee, know I am forever grateful. This is a great state. For every one person who takes a cheap shot on social media there's a hundred sending encouraging, thoughtful notes. For everyone who seems to live a life that's just about themselves, there's a hundred that rush to help when there's a tornado or wildfire, military is deployed or school children are in a bus wreck or whatever it is, there's a hundred that respond for every one that disappoints you.

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Three things I'd like to say and then I'm gonna sit down and we're gonna get about inaugurating a great man.

The first is this, one of my favorite quotes is by Justice Oliver Windle Homes. He said, "This is the mighty joy in life, to be a force for good instead of a selfish feverish clot of ailments complaining that the world won't make you happy." You know there's a lot of discussion going on about all the change in Tennessee. We have a new Governor, a lot of new Legislators and new leadership and the question always becomes "Well who's got the power now? What's gonna happen? Who's gonna hold the reins of power?" I hope the question becomes, "Who's going to seek good the most?" And, "who is going to serve the best?" Because this is a great state that we are honored to live in and that we are called to serve.

The second point I would like to make is this: Tennessee will lead. If we're a state that can become the fastest improving state in the country for K-12 education results, the first state to figure out how to give everyone two years free of community college or technical school, a state that can have a GDP that rises faster than any of our neighbors, and a state that can figure out how to have low taxes and low debt and still provide for our most vulnerable citizens, then we can lead.

Governor Lee, you're gonna find something; all these great people you've hired are going to be incredibly loyal to you. When you're right they're going to be really loyal and when you're not right they're still going to be loyal to you. During the campaign, when somebody would say something about Tennessee can do this better we can do this, our folks would get all offended like, "I can't believe that, let them come try it and we'll see how well they do." But you know what? They're right. And so when Governor Lee talked through the campaign about Tennessee can better he was dead right and we can be.

Governor Bredesen told me, hopefully you remember this about his last day in office I said any last piece of advice? He said this, "We don't expect enough of ourselves. We can believe in better." And that has been Governor Lee's message and that is so true. So work with Governor Lee to believe in better and be the kind of state that Tennessee really can be.

And that leads me the last thing to say about who you have elected Governor. Way to go Tennessee. Way to go. Mark my words, Bill Lee will be a great Governor. Eight years, not four years from now, eight years, we will be paying tribute to the great job. People say, "How do you know that? He hasn't done the job." I know that because I've seen him. I've seen him hire a great team of people. And to all of you who have joined the Lee administration, you're coming to work with a great group of people. I've already seen him recruit business to Tennessee. I've already seen him wrestle with and understand the budget. Even more than that, I've seen his courage of his convictions. Whether it be through a campaign or just living life. Bill has faced some of the hardest things life can handle. And he can out not feeling sorry for himself and having a pity party but saying "How can I serve?"

So Bill, God's speed my brother.

Crissy and I woke up and did what thousands of other Tennesseans did this morning before we came here. We woke up and prayed for you and Maria. We will be praying for you and cheering for you. We're grateful to have, you don't get to pick your successor in this job but I can't think of anybody else that we are more excited to turn over the keys to this wonderful state that we love and call home.

Thank you so much for allowing us to do this.

Mr. President McNally introduced Governor-Elect Bill Lee, accompanied by Mrs. Maria Lee and family.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Chief Justice Jeffery Bivins, of the Tennessee Supreme Court, administered the Oath of Office to Governor-Elect Bill Lee, as prescribed by law.

Mr. President McNally relinquished the gavel to Mr. Speaker Casada as President of the Joint Convention.

Thereupon, Mr. President Casada declared that the Honorable Bill Lee was duly, legally and constitutionally inaugurated the Governor of the State of Tennessee for the ensuing four years.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

In 1796, a man and his young family made their homestead on the banks of the Cumberland River just up the way from here. That was the year that the great state of Tennessee was founded. 223 years later and 50 governors later, we stand, we stand here on the banks of the Cumberland River, celebrating our history and anticipating our future.

Thank you for that welcome and introduction. Thank you so very much. I'm honored to be here with Governor McNally, Speaker Casada. Thank you, welcome. Members of the General Assembly, I genuinely look forward to working with you in the days ahead.

Former governors, Justices of the Supreme Court, Members of our Congressional Delegation, and all fellow Tennesseans who have joined here in the War Memorial Auditorium, where it's warm and dry, and all across the state. Thank you for sharing in us this special moment.

I want to make a couple of acknowledgements. I would not be here today if it weren't for God's gift to me, my wife Maria.

Throughout the past two years of campaigning, Maria's been constantly by my side. She has been steadfastly committed, steadfastly loved me, and in the process, she has steadfastly fallen in love with the people of Tennessee and is committed to them as well. She will make a remarkable First Lady. Thank you, Maria.

I also want to thank my family, who occupy a large section of this. And I want to thank my mother for being here, Ann Lee who for four generations has been the foundation of the Lee family.

My children, and their spouses, and their families, Jessica and Jacob and Caleb and Sarah Kate, you all have loved me well for many, many years. We have loved each other well through many, many things. And in the last couple years you've made great sacrifices, and I'm grateful for that. And your dad loves you even more than ever.

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I'd also like to take my own opportunity to thank Governor Bill Haslam and his wife Crissy for their tireless service to this state for the past eight years.

Standing here in our state's capital, we see reminders of your administration's success everywhere. Growth and opportunity can be seen on every corner. From education to economic development, you've laid a foundation, a remarkable foundation that we get to build upon. We are the envy of many states, and it is in large part due to your remarkable leadership. And we, all of us in Tennessee thank you and Crissy, and thank you for doing that.

That man that I spoke of that settled his family on the banks of the Cumberland the year that this great state was formed—that man's name was Charles Braxton Lee.

And he was my seventh great grandfather.

And we stand here today, beneficiaries not of great governance of the past—but of the lives of the great men and women who have come before us.

Men and women who forged difficult lives on the frontier, who formed small towns, and eventually larger cities. People who cleared the land and planted crops, and built businesses, and worked in factories, and created industry, and created a state like it says on our seal, a state of commerce and agriculture, a state that now stands as one of the most prosperous in the nation.

And it didn't just simply happen, it wasn't inevitable.

It happened because of men and women who came before us, men and women who educated our children in one room school houses, and then built an education system.

Men and women who cared for our sick in the frontier and then built clinics and then hospitals and then a health system.

Men and women who protected us and built a system of, of justice and law, circuit riders who traveled this state and built a community of faith.

It happened because of men and women who sacrificed in wars from the Revolutionary War to today, and it happened because of men and women who struggled to overcome injustices and inequalities in our society...from slavery to suffrage to civil rights.

And most of all, it happened because of the favor of God himself. In spite of our inadequacies and our weaknesses, He was strong on our behalf. And He has blessed us indeed. And as governor of Tennessee, I will daily ask for his wisdom, and for his guidance, and his for direction.

And we will need that wisdom, for in spite of the great favor that he has shown us and in spite of the great blessings that we have, we have great challenges in front of us.

Tennesseans, we stand in one of the great states in all of America.

But our greatness has never come from what one individual has done.

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Our greatness has always come from the collective lives, and service, and commitment and sacrifice of those who have come before us—because of what we have always done as a people together, in a community with each other, in service to our state and to our neighbors.

Last year, Maria and I drove back and forth and back and forth, all across this state, to every corner of Tennessee, and we found out something: no matter whether you live in the hills of East Tennessee, or the fields of West Tennessee, or whether you live in a small town or downtown, people want the same thing: a good job, good school for their kids, and a safe neighborhood.

And it's true we have good jobs and great prosperity here. We have record low unemployment. We have record low taxes. Companies are moving here, and businesses are building here. We have great prosperity, as I said, on every corner.

And yet, we have 15 counties in poverty, all rural, all Tennesseans.

We have some of the most distressed zip codes in America—right in the heart of our greatest cities.

So when we consider our state, we see how fortunate we are, and yet, we also see how much we have to do.

Not only do Tennesseans want a good job; but, Tennesseans want good schools for their kids. And we have made tremendous progress in this state in education—in part due to great education Governors that have gone before me. In fact, Tennessee has the highest rate of improvement in educational outcomes of any state in the country. And yet, we're still in the bottom half of states.

I believe that education is much more than a test score—it's about preparation of a child's success in life. And a resurgence of vocational and technical and agricultural education, and the inclusion of civics and character education, combined with reforms, will take Tennessee to the top tier of states.

Tennesseans do want good jobs and they do want good schools, but they also want safe neighborhoods. And while most of our communities and most of our neighborhoods are safe, our violent crime rate is rising in every major city and our state. We can be tough on crime and smart on crime at the same time. And for violent criminals and for traffickers, justice should be swift and it should be certain.

But here, here's the reality, 95% of people sitting in a jail or prison cell in the state of Tennessee are coming out into our communities. And right now, half of them will re-commit a crime and go back in in the first three years. We need to help non-violent offenders re-enter society, not re-enter prison.

I believe that we can do it. I believe that we can create safer neighborhoods, good jobs, better schools, all across our state.

These are just a few examples of the challenges that we face, and there are many other challenges that we can't ignore either.

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An opioid epidemic that is ravaging Tennessee.

Too few Tennesseans have access to healthcare that they can afford.

Our rural communities are struggling.

Yes, these are the challenges of our day, and history will judge us based on how we meet them.

As honored as I am to be your governor, no governor will solve the problems—in fact, not government will solve the greatest problems that we face.

Government is not the answer to our challenges.

Government's role is to protect our rights, our liberty, and our freedom.

And I believe in a limited government, that provides unlimited opportunities for we the people to address the greatest challenges of our day.

The truth is that most of the things that have created the greatness of Tennessee don't have much to do with government at all.

Our strength has always come from our people, like those First Tennesseans, who came here with hope, and who worked together to create this great state.

You know, we're famous for our three grand divisions of East and West and Middle, as evidenced by the three stars on our flag. But it is important however to remember that that circle around those stars represents the unity of our state. And I believe that Tennesseans have much more that unites us than divides us.

And I believe that one way that we do unite is by following the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself. In fact, I believe it is the key to American greatness. Our greatness has never come from government compulsion or power. It's always come from our love for each other, and our commitment to our fellow citizens, and to our neighbors. If we remember that commandment and walk in that spirit our greatest days will always lie before us.

So much has changed over the past 223 years, but some things haven't changed at all. Once again, we stand here: Tennesseans, on the banks of the Cumberland, with great challenges and great opportunities—as in need of the Wisdom and favor of God as ever—and with a continued deep commitment to each other.

These last few months I've thought an awful lot about Braxton Lee and about those first Tennesseans.

I wonder what they told each other when they had to deal with their struggles. I think a lot about who they were.

They were strong and courageous. And they were faithful. And they were committed. And they were certain.

They were Tennesseans.

And I've also thought a lot about our descendants, seven generations from now. What will they say about us?

Were we strong and courageous, were we faithful, were we committed, were we certain? Did we come together to meet the challenges that we faced, with courage, and optimism and a belief in each other?

If we meet the challenges of this moment, they too will say of us—"They were Tennesseans."

Thank you for this great honor, may God bless each one of you and may God Bless the great state of Tennessee. Thank you.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. President Casada asked the members of Governor Haslam's Cabinet to rise in order to receive their Oaths of Office.

Mr. President Casada administered the Oaths of Office to Governor Lee's Cabinet.

The Tennessee National Guard gave the Governor's Salute to Governor Lee.

Dr. Don Finto, founder and president of Caleb Company, delivered the Benediction.

The purpose for which the Joint Convention was assembled having been accomplished, Mr. President Casada declared the Joint Convention dissolved.